



GREENVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE



Releasing Official: Lieutenant Mike Gambrell
Public Information Officer

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Type of Incident: Narcotics Investigation/ Press Conference

The Vice/ Narcotics Bureau of the Greenville City Police Department concluded a three month investigation today entitled "Operation New Year". Areas for the focus of this operation on street level narcotics distribution were identified through complaints from communities across the City along with intelligence developed from surveillance and informant debriefing. This operation utilized both informants and an undercover officer making narcotics purchases from various individuals identified on this level of distribution.

Warrants were obtained on these offenses and served throughout today. In addition, arrests were made during the operation on possession and possession with intent to distribute narcotics cases. The areas identified for focus on this operation were in the following communities: Nicholtown, Greenline, Pleasant Valley, Green/Haynie Street, Cotton Street, Southern Side, and West Greenville. The undercover purchases were made using both audio and video intelligence surveillance devices.

Recognizing the three different distribution levels (Street, Medium, and Upper), this operation is a continuation of a multi- faceted enforcement effort against illicit narcotics within the City of Greenville during this past year. The first stage of this effort aimed at all three levels was entitled "Operation Lights Out" which was concluded October 31, 2001. That operation focused on the medium level distributors in the area night clubs and was responsible for the arrests of 44 individuals. The next phase concluded today which focused on the second of these three levels being street distribution. It is responsible for the issuance of 153 warrants on 70 individuals. The third phase is our continued efforts against upper level distributors through our participation in the DEA Task Force.

Chief W.L. Johnson will be conducting a press conference at 2:00pm today within the 2nd floor conference room at the Greenville County Law Enforcement Center to provide further details of this operation. Copies of warrants, pictures of suspects, narcotics seized, and a video sampling of an undercover narcotics purchase will be available at this time.

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